

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS CANBERRA 000987

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/ANP, DRL/IL AND EB  
STATE PASS TO USTR FOR WEISEL/COEN  
LABOR FOR ILAB

E.O.12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ELAB](#) [ECON](#) [KTDB](#) [AS](#)

SUBJECT: Australia: Labor Commission Lifts Minimum Wage

REF: CANBERRA 944

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) on June 7 raised the hourly minimum wage by 3.6 percent to A\$12.75, or \$9.70 per hour (A\$1 = US\$0.76). The minimum pay for the standard 38 hour work week is now A\$484.40, or \$368. The raise will affect Australia's 1.6 million lowest paid workers who are covered by federal and state employment contracts, or "awards." The AIRC handed down the increase in what is expected to be its final ruling on the minimum wage because the Government has announced a major package of labor law reforms, including the creation of a Fair Pay Commission to set the minimum wage in future (reftel).  
STANTON